

THE CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS

"Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord." —Eph. 5:19 (NCV)



Valley Grace Brethren Church of Armagh, Pennsylvania
Sunday, December 19th, AD 2021

The LORD'S Day

The Nineteenth Day of December, *in the Year of our Lord 2021*

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!



Sunday School—9:30 AM.



This week we take a break from our ongoing series and revisit our annual **Christmas Quiz!** How many of the actual details of the Biblical account of our Lord's Nativity do YOU remember?

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *"What Child is This"* (#126; v. 1)

Invocation.*

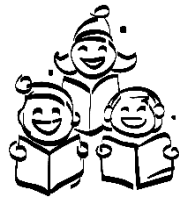
Hymn: *"Angels we Have Heard on High"* (#136).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:7-20.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *"Go Tell it on the Mountain"* (#127).



Announcements.

Hymn: *"It Came upon a Midnight Clear"* (#118).

Dismissal of Youth for Children's Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: *"THE CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS (Part I)."*

Closing Hymn:* *"Silent Night! Holy Night!"* (#122).

Benediction.*

*The Congregation will please arise, if able.



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Downloadable audio mp3 messages at archive.org (@reesetpje)

Also check out our YouTube Channel (search "Terry Reese")!

Camp Mantowagan website: <https://www.campmantowagan.com>

Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study—4:00 PM.

Our studies in Daniel ch. 4 this week focuses upon the issue of "signs & wonders"—a matter of grave relevance in the contemporary church.

Today's Verses for Reflection:

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."—Colossians 3:16 (ESV)



Week of Dec. 12-18, 2021

Sunday School—6; Morning Worship—18

Midweek—3; Church Offering: \$1,646.⁰⁰

CHRISTMAS GIFT BOXES

"THANK YOU" for your combined generosity in filling our gift boxes. The boxes were distributed to several families that needed a special blessing and some encouragement this year.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



Our special candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be on Friday evening at 7:00 PM. Please invite friends to share in the worship of our wonderful Savior and in the warmth of traditional carols, special readings, and in the glow of our collective Christian fellowship.

Christmas Hymn Stories:
"Angels we Have Heard on High"

By Pastor Terry L. Reese, 12/19/2021

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among
men with whom He is pleased." — Luke 2:14*

James Chadwick, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, rendered this loose English paraphrase of an old, traditional French carol of unknown origin.

Like a number of carols, this carol is based upon the dramatic angelic visitation unto a band of certain humble shepherds (Luke 2:8-20)—a brilliant light of heavenly glory that immediately follows Luke's somber account (2:1-7) of an obscure and lonely birth that occurs amidst an atmosphere of foreign occupation, intense poverty, and human indifference.

The carol's most memorable feature is of course its magnificent chorus, based upon the angelic proclamation of Luke 2:14a:

"Glory to God in the highest..."

"*Gloria in Excelsis Deo!*" is the Latin rendering of "Glory to God in the highest;" the word "*Gloria*" is brilliantly sustained through no less than 16 notes (!) in a rising & falling melodic sequence.

Various themes are reflected in each verse:

- v. 1:** The carol begins in a festive spirit; a great joining of Heaven and Earth in celebration...

*"Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains..."*

- v. 2:** It then asks WHY there is such a celebration...

"Shepherds, why this jubilee?"

- v. 3:** An invitation is then extended unto *us* to join in the celebration...

"Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing..."

- v. 4:** The carol concludes with a final observance of Christ's birth and with the Christian's joyful response...

*"See within a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, sing with us our Savior's birth."*